

TWO NEW SPECIES OF *VERBESINA* (ASTERACEAE) FROM
GUERRERO, MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT

Two new species of *Verbesina*, *V. chilapana* and *V. pseudovirgata*, are described from Guerrero, México. The former is related to *V. oaxacana* DC., but differs in having larger heads with loose oblanceolate bracts and nearly wingless achenes; the latter is closely related to *V. virgata* Cav., but differs in having larger glabrous leaves, markedly winged stems, and shorter rays.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, *Verbesina*, México

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelties in *Verbesina*.

Verbesina chilapana B. Turner, *sp. nov.*

Verbesinae oaxacanae DC. similis sed capitulis majoribus bracteis involucri laxis incohaerentibus foliaceisque et acheniis ad maturitatem sine alis differt.

TYPE: MÉXICO. Guerrero: km 69 on the Chilpancingo-Chilapa-Tlapa road, rare in a small pocket of oak-pine forest, only a few plants seen, 2100 m, 7 Nov 1990, *Jose L. Panero 2037* (HOLOTYPE: TEX!; Isotypes: MEXU, TENN).

Sparsely branched shrubs 0.5-1.0 m high. Stems densely short pubescent, narrowly winged (ca. 1 mm wide). Leaves alternate, 8-12 cm long, 3-5 cm wide; petioles 3-7 mm long; blades elliptic-ovate, widest at or near the middle, pinnately nervate, hispidulous above, densely soft pilose beneath, the margins serrulate. Heads hemispheric, 5-7 to a stem, the ultimate peduncles mostly 2-4 cm long. Involucres 1.5-2.0 cm across, the bracts subequal, triseriate, loose and foliaceous, obovate, ca. 6 mm long, 3-4 mm wide. Receptacles conical, the chaff lanceolate, stiffly acute, exceeding the florets. Ray florets ca. 32,

neuter, sterile, the ligules yellow, 4-8 mm long. Disk florets numerous, the corollas yellow, ca. 5 mm long, the lobes ca. 1 mm long. Achenes ca. 2.5 mm long, glabrous or nearly so, wingless at maturity, or seemingly so; pappus awns delicate, 1-2 mm long.

The species is most closely related to *Verbesina oaxacana* DC. and *V. auriculata* DC., both of which possess relatively large heads and alternate leaves. It differs from both in having more numerous rays, dark colored, loose foliaceous involucre bracts and smaller leaves which are softly pubescent beneath.

Verbesina pseudovirgata B. Turner, *sp. nov.*

Verbesinae virgatae Cav. sed foliis majoribus glabris ac subtiliter reticulatis in paginis infernis et caulibus valde alatis differt.

TYPE: MÉXICO. Guerrero: km 127 of the Chilpancingo-Chilapa-Tlapa road, along the road in pine-oak forest, 2080 m, 7 Nov 1990, *Jose L. Panero 2044* (HOLOTYPE: TEX!; Isotypes: MEXU, TENN).

Weak stemmed shrubs 1-2 m high. Stems pubescent with appressed minute hairs, markedly winged, rarely not. Leaves alternate or rarely opposite, 12-20 cm long, 2-5 cm wide; petioles winged throughout, or seemingly absent and the blade clasping the stem; blades obovate to oblanceolate, glabrous or nearly so, the undersurfaces finely reticulate venose, eglandular, the margins entire or nearly so. Heads numerous, arranged in stiffly erect cymose panicles, the ultimate peduncles ascending, mostly 1-4 cm long. Involucres 4-5 mm high, 2-3 seriate, the bracts subgraduate, appressed, greenish yellow. Receptacle subconical, the pales 4-6 mm long, apiculate but not recurved. Ray florets 5-8, pistillate, fertile, the ligules yellow, 2-4 mm long. Disk florets 40-60, the corollas tubular, sparsely pubescent, 3.5-4.0 mm long, the lobes ca. 0.3 mm long. Achenes ca. 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the wings membranous, ca. 0.5 mm wide above, gradually tapering below; pappus awns equal, ca. 2 mm long.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED: MÉXICO. Guerrero: Taxco, 12 Oct 1938, *Ruth Abbott 485* (GH); along trail from Taxco to Casahuates, mountains west of and above Taxco, 5800-6300 ft, 6 Nov 1949, *E. Moore, Jr. 5536* (CU).

The species superficially resembles *Verbesina virgata* Cav. but is readily distinguished by its large, nearly glabrous, finely reticulate, essentially sessile, entire leaves. It is also distinguished by its conspicuous winged stems and small ray florets. The Abbot collection, cited above, is noteworthy in having on the same sheet, two sprigs of the plant, one with opposite and the other with alternate leaves; otherwise, the two shoots are very similar.

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